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~~26.~~ A DNA molecule having a sequence consisting of nucleotides which encode amino acids 112 to 607 of a hepatitis E virus open reading frame 2 protein.

³
~~27.~~ A DNA molecule having a sequence consisting of nucleotides which encode amino acids 112 to 578 of a hepatitis E virus open reading frame 2 protein.

⁴
~~28.~~ The DNA molecule of claim ~~25~~¹, wherein the molecule encodes a protein having its amino-terminus at amino acid 112 of SEQ ID NO:2 and its carboxy-terminus at an amino acid in the range of amino acids 578 to 607 of SEQ ID NO:2.

⁵
~~29.~~ The DNA molecule of claim ~~26~~², wherein the molecule encodes amino acids 112 to 607 of SEQ ID NO:2.

⁶
~~30.~~ The DNA molecule of claim ~~27~~³, wherein the molecule encodes amino acids 112-578 of SEQ ID NO:2.

⁷
~~31.~~ A recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA molecule according to claims ~~25~~¹, ~~26~~², ~~27~~³, ~~28~~⁴, ~~29~~⁵ or ~~30~~⁶.

⁸
~~32.~~ A host cell containing an expression vector according to claim ~~31~~⁷.

⁹
~~33.~~ A method of producing a recombinant hepatitis E virus open reading frame 2 protein, said method comprising:

- (a) culturing a host cell of claim 32 under conditions appropriate to cause expression of said protein; and
- (b) obtaining said expressed protein from the host cell.